

7 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Geological Survey Request for CIA Support

1. This memorandum is to record a "nonintelligence" request from the Geological Survey, Department of Interior, for technical assistance in the field of digital manipulation of full text. The CRS/OJCS consolidation effort precludes devoting more than a few hours to this task at this time, but I see nothing improper in providing minimal support at this time or significant support once the consolidation is out of the way (probably not before the end of October).

2. The specific request is that CRS create a test file of abstracts from scholarly journals of use to Interior for processing and searching on the Rapid Search Machine (G.E. SCAN) and for use of the CRS machine to demonstrate the search and retrieval capability of the machine to "senior" Interior officials. The Geological Survey official who contacted CRS has offered to make a programmer available to assist in the task, but without security clearances such a person would be more of a problem than an aid.

3. I have instructed my people to elicit enough additional information to determine how much work would be involved with the intent of saying that I will help now if the work will be light, and I will help in the latter part of the year if the work will be substantial.

4. While I see no problem in CIA assisting the Department of Interior in this regard, Interior itself might have a problem. The Interior employee making the request, Mr. Fitzhugh Clark, is a former G.E. employee who was involved in selling the Rapid Search Machine to CIA--ORD was the purchaser.

5. Unless instructed to the contrary, CRS will proceed as indicated above.

[Redacted]

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H. C. EISENBEISS  
Director, Central Reference Service

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6 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Request for RSM Demonstration

1. On 3 August, C/DSB received a call from Mr. Fitzhugh Clark, a Remote Sensing Engineer with the Department of Interior, Geological Survey, inquiring about the feasibility of creating a test RSM file of Journal Abstracts used at Interior. Mr. Clark also asked if a paper tape could likewise be converted and formatted for the RSM.

2. According to Mr. Clark, Interior is contemplating getting an RSM. (Mr. Clark used to work for G.E. and was involved in selling the RSM to CIA). The assistance being requested would be one-time effort only. I assured Mr. Clark that what he wanted was technically feasible, but that our programming resources were extremely scarce. Mr. Clark offered to make a programmer from Interior available to assist.

3. On 6 August, I called Mr. Clark to elicit some additional information. It was agreed that he would send us samples of the file records for our review and that on 8 August he would let me know when his programmer, who is familiar with the University of Oklahoma RSM Systems, would be able to briefly talk with our RSM programmer so that we would know more precisely what is involved.

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Chief, Document Services Branch

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